



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

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11-28-08

Applicant: Alvin L. Neeley et al.

) USSN:09/440,149

Filed: November 15, 1999

) Attorney's

Title: MANHOLE COVER LIFTING  
APPARATUS AND METHOD

) Matter No:P112554

) Examiner: Underwood

**RECEIVED**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

NOV 24 2000

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**TO 3600 MAIL ROOM**

Sir:

On this last August 4, a Response was filed to the Office Action mailed June 9, 00. An Advisory Action was mailed from the Office on August 23, 00, which indicated that the Response of August 4, 00 had been considered but was not deemed to place the application in condition for allowance. It was also stated that the Response would not be entered since it raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

The time for responding was stated to be three months from the date of the final Rejection or from the mailing date of this Advisory Action, namely August 23, 00, whichever is later. Accordingly, this Continuation Application is being filed at this time as a continuing prosecution application, with the due date for responding being November 23, 00. Therefore the Continuation Application with which this Preliminary Amendment is being filed is believed not to require any extension fee, or any other fee to maintain Application S.N. 09/440,449 in effect up until August 23, 2000. Nevertheless, if any such fee is due, please charge this to account number 08-3260.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, after MANHOLE COVER LIFTING APPARATUS AND METHOD please insert the following paragraph: